

The VA Medical Center joined with Harvard Medical School to become a training facility for surgical residents in the late 1960's and has remained an active teaching hospital for Harvard and Dartmouth Medical School residents. Through the years, students aspiring to become nurses, dentists, physical therapists, physician assistants, occupational therapists, optometrists, medical assistants, dieticians, and pharmacists, have found a diverse clinical experience there.

Recognizing the need to address the long-term residential health care need of aging veterans, the Hospital dedicated a Nursing Home Care Unit in the late 1970's. Expansion continued in 1977 with the groundbreaking for a new Ambulatory Care wing.

Outpatient care became an important priority in the years that followed. Those patients requiring specialty care were previously required to travel to other VA hospitals in the region to receive care. After determining veterans should not have to travel long distances for their care, the staff formed specialty clinics including Orthopaedics, Optometry, Audiology, Neurology, Pain, Ear, Nose, and Throat.

Locally accessible care continues today in the form of Center-sponsored health screenings in local communities throughout the state. The Manchester VA Hospital also serves as a research center for a large number of health care programs. Of note is the facility's Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder research center which has received both national and international recognition for its work.

Although New Hampshire's veterans' population has decreased, their health care needs remain a high priority. These men and women sacrificed a great deal for each and every American and their needs continue to be met today. Community Based Outreach Clinics can be found throughout the state including the communities of Tilton and Newington and future facilities are planned for Lancaster, Conway, Wolfeboro, and Keene.

Through its changes, the VA's importance holds strong with a purpose "to serve those who have served us well," its commitment "to advocate for the total well-being of veterans," and its promise "to be there when veterans need us."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 293, I was unavoidably detained on official business. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was unavoidably absent on a matter of critical importance and missed the following votes:

On the motion that the Committee of Whole House on the State of the Union Rise, introduced by the gentleman from California, Mr. WAXMAN, I would have voted "yea."

On the amendment to the rider on H.R. 4635, regarding the use of Veterans' Administration funds for tobacco litigation, introduced by the gentleman from California, Mr. WAXMAN, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on June 15, 2000 and in the early hours of June 16, 2000, I was traveling to my District, and therefore unable to cast my votes on rollcall numbers 280 through 291. Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 281, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, and 290; and "nay" on rollcall votes 280, 282, 288, 289, and 291.

CONGRATULATING THE LA LAKERS

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Los Angeles Lakers on winning the National Basketball Association Championship. As a native of Los Angeles, I could not be more proud of our team's achievement. The Los Angeles Lakers have a history of phenomenal success and great basketball. Yesterday's win was their sixth championship in two decades. The Lakers are stars, and they have dominated the game of basketball. They have made us proud.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I was not recorded on rollcall votes 292 and 293 on Monday, June 19, 2000. Had I been present on Monday, June 19, 2000, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 292, a motion to rise offered by Representative WAXMAN. I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 293, an amendment offered by Representative WAXMAN, to H.R. 4365, the Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations bill.

I have consistently voted to eliminate government funding for tobacco programs and increase government efforts to reduce the use of tobacco in our society. I will continue to support efforts to keep tobacco companies accountable for the health care costs associated with tobacco related illnesses. In particular, we

must continue to educate our children on the hazards of tobacco use and enforce laws that curb underage smoking.

TRIBUTE TO PANORAMA AND ALEXANDER POLOVETS

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 2000

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. BERMAN, and I wish to pay tribute to a remarkable man and his equally remarkable newspaper. In July of this year, "Panorama," The Russian-language newspaper which is the brainchild of Alexander Polovets, will celebrate its 20th anniversary, its 1,000th edition and the 65th birthday of its editor-in-chief, Alexander Polovets.

In 1978 Alexander Polovets started to publish a weekly Russian-language insert in a local Anglo-Jewish newspaper. It met with instant popularity and in 1980 Alexander published the first issue of "Panorama," an independent weekly publication. "Panorama" went on to become the largest independent Russian-language weekly outside of Russia and certainly one of the most influential voices in the Russian-speaking community.

"Panorama's" goal is to provide a forum for original materials of authors, thinkers and public figures in the United States and abroad. Equally important, it serves the needs of the growing Russian-speaking community in the United States. "Panorama" offers a unique opportunity to share information about life in the United States, helping to acclimate recent immigrants and to offer a focal point for cooperation within the Russian community.

"Panorama" has published the works of some of the best known contemporary authors and thinkers, organized and promoted U.S. concerts, and raised important social issues such as welfare reform, immigration, crime and housing. It has featured interviews with prominent national and international figures and most recently it was instrumental in making the 2000 Census campaign a success in the immigrant community.

The publication is used as reference material by hundreds of universities, libraries and social agencies. Its subscribers are worldwide, as is its staff of reporters. It is no surprise that in 1999 Alexander Polovets was named one of the "100 Most Influential Jews in Los Angeles" by the authoritative "Jewish Journal." "Panorama" is the resource for anyone wishing to reach the Russian-speaking community.

We ask our colleagues to join us in congratulating Alexander Polovets and "Panorama" for enriching our community for twenty wonderful years. Happy 65th Birthday to Alexander and best wishes for continued success.